

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

HOUSE MEMORIAL 24

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

INTRODUCED BY

Janice E. Arnold-Jones

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT TO  
PROTEST THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S NEW  
ARSENIC STANDARD.

WHEREAS, the United States environmental protection agency  
has changed the standard for the allowable level of arsenic in  
drinking water from fifty parts per billion to ten parts per  
billion; and

WHEREAS, the new standard has required New Mexicans to  
spend approximately six hundred fifty thousand dollars  
(\$650,000) to date, but it is estimated that one hundred  
thirty-five million dollars (\$135,000,000) is needed to rebuild  
water treatment facilities and that approximately twenty  
million dollars (\$20,000,000) will be needed annually in  
additional operating expenses; and

.166426.1

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1           WHEREAS, seventy-seven million five hundred thousand  
2 dollars (\$77,500,000) has been submitted this year in capital  
3 outlay requests for arsenic removal upgrades to water treatment  
4 systems; and

5           WHEREAS, water bills to consumers in the affected areas  
6 will increase between forty dollars (\$40.00) and one hundred  
7 dollars (\$100) per month; and

8           WHEREAS, the environmental protection agency bases the new  
9 standard on foreign studies that related high arsenic levels in  
10 the range of several hundred parts per billion to adverse  
11 health effects; and

12           WHEREAS, the environmental protection agency cannot  
13 produce data to demonstrate adverse health effects of the  
14 current arsenic levels in New Mexico water; and

15           WHEREAS, on the contrary, a study in Utah demonstrates  
16 that background levels of arsenic found in the American west  
17 have no adverse health effects; and

18           WHEREAS, the source of arsenic in New Mexico water is  
19 volcanic soils, and arsenic has always been present in the  
20 water with no demonstrable adverse effects on public health;  
21 and

22           WHEREAS, in 2002, the New Mexico legislature requested the  
23 environmental protection agency to relax the arsenic standard  
24 with no result;

25           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

.166426.1

underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that congress and  
2 the president be requested to rescind the decision by the  
3 environmental protection agency to lower the arsenic standard;  
4 and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
6 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation and to  
7 the president.